



**USAID**  
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**KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

## BEFORE & AFTER

# Businesses Recover from Looting

*In the autumn of 2005, USAID launched the Looted Business Loan Support Program to support the recovery of businesses that suffered from looting during the March 2005 civil disturbances in Bishkek. USAID's program provided grants to damaged businesses and supported loan opportunities.*

*The program, administered by the Pragma Corporation, dispersed \$700,000 of grants, ranging from \$300 to \$5,000, to 179 Kyrgyz businessmen and women. In conjunction with USAID grants, entrepreneurs received more than \$2 million of loans from one of the USAID's partner financial lending institutions. Through a combination of grants and loans, the USAID program covered 67% of all losses reported by grant recipients. Over 70% of loans and grants were dispersed to businesses operating in retail sector, which was worst-hit by looters.*

*"The grant was important for my business recovery, and the U.S. Government was the only one who has provided any real support. As well as financial support, the grant signifies something maybe even more important to me - moral support from the U.S. Government," noted a beneficiary of the USAID Looted Business Loan Support Program.*



Photograph: Elvira Kolosova

**BEFORE** This store lost its entire stock worth \$30,000 was stolen and suffered heavy damage during the March unrest. In addition to the financial losses, the suppliers of the goods were concerned about the prospect of further looting and were reluctant to entrust their business to the store.



Photograph: Sergei Shirobokov

**AFTER** USAID's grant and loan support helped the owner purchase sufficient stock so that the store could return to its previous level of business operations. "I am hugely thankful for USAID's assistance," says the owner of the store. "With the money I received from the bank and from USAID, I have been able to salvage my business."